

Havertown PCP

EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania

Delaware County

Haverford Township

EPA ID# PAD002338010

7th Congressional District

Last Update: August

2002

Other Names:

National Wood Preservers

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is cleaning up contamination at the Havertown PCP site. The groundwater treatment plant has been operating full-time since August 2001. The temporary treatment system was removed from the site after it was determined that the permanent facility was treating the groundwater as designed. The next action scheduled for the treatment facility area is landscaping, which is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2002. The removal of the oil/water separator and restoration of the area behind the Philadelphia Gum Company was initiated in July 2002.

A final investigation and feasibility study will be conducted for the site to investigate the deep groundwater and the sediment of Naylor's Run. The study was initiated in July 2001 and sampling should begin in August 2002. The study will determine if further remedial actions are required for the site.

Site Description

From 1947 to 1991, National Wood Preservers ran a wood treatment operation on this site in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The company reportedly disposed liquid wastes into a well leading to the groundwater under the plant. These wastes were primarily oil contaminated with pentachlorophenol (PCP). The liquid wastes leached into nearby Naylor's Run, a small stream that flows through a residential area and eventually into the Delaware River. Liquid wastes were also spilled on the surface, contaminating the soil in the area. There are no known users of groundwater within a one-mile radius of the site. Approximately 26,000 people live within a mile of the site.

Site Responsibility


Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments, and parties potentially responsible for site contamination.

NPL Listing History

Our country's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List (NPL). This site was proposed to the National Priorities List on December 30, 1982. The site was formally added to the list on September 8, 1983, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

Threats and Contaminants

The groundwater, surface water, and soil were contaminated with PCP, arsenic, dioxins, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and petroleum hydrocarbons. Soils are now clean and safe. The surface water has improved, and will continue to improve once the current project is completed. Nearby residents are connected to the public water supply, so nobody is drinking contaminated water. Although unlikely, people who accidentally ingest or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater may be at risk.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

In 1976, the EPA contained the contamination by drilling wells and pumping PCP to the surface for treatment. Since the owners of the site have been uncooperative with the EPA in addressing the contamination, the site was listed on the National Priorities List for federal cleanup.

In 1987, EPA put up a fence to restrict access to the site, and installed sponge-like barriers plus a catch basin in Naylor's Run to contain the chemicals. In 1991, EPA installed an oil/water separator at the point where the contaminated groundwater discharged to Naylor's Run. In 1993, EPA removed tanks and drums from the facility and secured the buildings. About 97,000 tons of liquids, 55 gallons of solids, and 60 tons of sludges – all containing hazardous wastes -- were disposed of off site. Thirty tanks were cleaned, cut up, and recycled. This work was completed in April 1994. EPA also demolished the wood treatment building, removed an underground storage tank, and removed all the demolition debris from the site.

In 1996, EPA demolished the vacant Lobb Lumber Building, located on an adjoining, contaminated property. That year, EPA also installed a three-acre synthetic cap over the areas of soil contamination at the site. This cap eliminated the threat of exposure to the contaminated soils. The cap is designed to allow construction of a light industrial building on it, in keeping with the current zoning of the area.

The groundwater treatment plant construction is completed. The groundwater treatment plant was operating full-time in August 2001. The temporary treatment system was removed from the site after it was determined that the permanent facility was treating the groundwater as designed. The next action scheduled for the treatment facility area is landscaping in the fall of 2002.

A final investigation and feasibility study will be conducted for the site to investigate the deep groundwater and the sediment of Naylor's Run. The study was initiated in July 2001 and sampling should begin in August 2002. The study will determine if further remedial actions are required for the site.

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's involvement and decisions at this site can be examined at the following location:

U.S. EPA Region III

6th Floor Administrative Record Room

1650 Arch St

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-814-3157

Please call to schedule an appointment